1	2
UNIKOM (Iraq & Kuwait)	1
UNMEE (Ethiopia-Eritrea)	4
JNMIBH (Bosnia and Herzegovina)	1
UNMIK (Kosovo)	2
UNMIS (Sudan)	2
UNMIL (Liberia)	1
UNOSOM (Somalia)	14
UNTAC (Cambodia)	7
UNTAG (Namibia)	1
TOTAL	119

Visit of Nepalese Prime Minister

689. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA:

SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the bilateral issues on which discussions were held with Nepalese Prime Minister during his visit to New Delhi in the third week of September, 2008;

(b) the salient points on which consensus arrived already indicating those left to be discussed further;

(c) whether Nepalese Prime Minister has been provided with any substantive details of various unlawful activities being carried from the soil of Nepal by anti-India outfits;

(d) if so, the status of commitment he gave, if any, to contain the same; and

(e) the details of roadmap drawn, if any, to conclude review of the existing treaties between two countries?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (e) During the recent visit of Prime Minister of Nepal to India from September 14-18, 2008, the entire gamut of bilateral relations came up for discussions. It was decided to reactivate bilateral mechanisms with Nepal including those in water resources, trade and transit and security issues. Both sides have agreed to enhance cooperation in handling cross-border crime and security concerns.

It was also agreed to review, adjust and update the 1950 Treaty of Peace and Friendship and other Agreements, while giving due recognition to the special features of the bilateral relationship.

The text of the Joint Press Statement issued during the visit is given as Statement (Refer to the Statement appended to the answer to USQ 679 (a) to (d).

Suicide attack on Indian Embassy in Kabul

690. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that Afghan President has blamed Pakistan's ISI behind the July 07, 2008 suicide attack on the Indian Embassy in Kabul;

(b) whether this issue, *inter-alia,* figured in the meeting between the Prime Minister of India and Pakistan on the sideline of the Fifteenth SAARC Summit held at Colombo in August, 2008; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Prime Minister of Pakistan to the alleged attack on the Indian Embassy and outcome of the enquiry held by him?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Yes.

(c) In response, the Prime Minister of Pakistan said that he would conduct an independent investigation and would discuss with President Karzai the attack on the Indian Embassy in Kabul.

Facilities to Haj Pilgrims

691. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by Government for augmenting the facilities provided to Haj Pilgrims during the last two years; and

(b) the details of grants and services provided to Haj Pilgrims in the country, for the said period, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) The Government of India make elaborate arrangements for the welfare of Haj Pilgrims and strives to improve the facilities provided to them every year. It makes arrangements to facilitate the transportation of the Haj Pilgrims going to Saudi Arabia through the Haj Committee of India and facilitates provision of accommodation and other logistical support for them. For efficient management and supervision of Haj arrangements, a large contingent of seasonal local staff, supervisors, data entry operators, drivers and messengers is appointed by Consulate General of India, Jeddah during Haj period. Every year, a contingent of more than 600 personnel comprising 3 Coordinators, about 135 doctors (including specialists with post-graduate degrees), 140 nurses and other para-medical staff, 46 Assistant Haj Officers, 170 Haj Assistants and about 200 *Khadimul Hujjaj* are sent from India on short-term deputation to Saudi Arabia. Extensive medical orientation is provided to the pilgrims in the community centres set up in Makkah and Madinah by the Consulate General of India, Jeddah. During Haj 2007, 60-bedded admission facility was upgraded to 75-bedded admission facility in Makkah and 15-bedded in Madinah. Besides that, 12 branch offices-cum-dispensaries in Makkah and 6 in Madina were set up for Haj pilgrims. Three medical teams at Jeddah Airport were available to provide round the clock medical assistance to Haj Pilgrims. Medicines provided at these dispensaries and hospital are being supplied from India and procured locally. Seventeen ambulances were pressed into service last year. Of these seven ambulances were sanctioned in 2006 and eight additional ambulances were provided in 2007 which added substantially to the medical facilities for the pilgrims. A system of First Information Report is followed in the case of all the pilgrims who are 70+ years of age in order to ensure that the concerned pilgrims receive specialised medical care. The Government also make arrangements in India for polio, meningitis and